

# Gainesville Daily Sun.

VOL. XXVI, NO. 201

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1909

TEN CENTS A WEEK

## PITTSBURG SHAKEN BY GIANT EXPLOSION

**Between Fifty and Seventy-Five Persons Injured,  
But No Bodies Found in Ruins.**

PITTSBURG, Sept. 28.—A terrific explosion occurred yesterday in the offices of the Columbian Films Exchange, located in the Ferguson building, between Smithfield and Wood streets, in the heart of the downtown district.

From fifty to seventy-five persons were injured, many of them seriously, and the monetary damage is estimated at \$200,000 or more.

At first it was believed that seven employees of the film company had lost their lives, but a thorough search of the ruins failed to disclose any dead. The employees, it is now thought, made their escape and have not been located, owing to the great confusion which followed the explosion. A score of the injured were taken to hospitals. A majority of them are burned, while the others sustained fractures of the arms and limbs.

The force of the explosion was so great that the south wall of the Ferguson building on Third avenue was blown out. The remaining walls were badly damaged and the building inspector immediately ordered them razed. Windows for fully a square on either side of the explosion were broken and a number of pedestrians making their way along Fourth avenue, the "Wall street" of Pittsburgh, were cut by falling glass. The explosion was caused by an electric spark.

The manager of the film company was absent.

Practically every office in the big building was damaged. Panic stricken, the occupants made a wild rush for the exits. Men and women ran screaming from pain and fright, many of them falling down the stairways. Others congregated about the elevator shaft and in their frantic efforts to board the cars wrecked the iron framework encasing the shaft. As most of them finally reached the street they fell to the ground suffering from burns, cuts and bruises. The accident threw the downtown district into the greatest excitement and special detachments were necessary to clear the streets of pedestrians who at the time were in imminent danger from a second explosion.

Shortly before 3 o'clock all the employees of the film company had been located. John K. Jillets, shipping clerk, made a statement in which he said the explosion occurred in the vault. Jillets said he went into the vault which is three feet wide and six feet high, to get a film. When he turned the electric light on a spark shot from the switch and ignited one of the films. He jumped from the vault, slammed the door and shouted to the others to run. As they reached the corridor the explosion occurred.

science," which settles this as the history of the disease. Judged by its spread the doctors are not at all sure about its treatment, even if they believe they have identified the cause.

The Public Service Commission calls attention to the fact that traction companies retain trackage of more than 20 miles in New York through running a rickety horse car over the lines once a day, merely to hold the franchise. Citizens of other cities would be indignant, but New Yorkers are used to standing almost anything from street car companies.

There are to be no more 13-cent stamps and instead the Postoffice Department will issue a 12-cent stamp. The former was devised to cover the cost of the 8-cent registry fee and the 5-cent international postage rate. The 15-cent stamp will serve this purpose when the registry fee is increased from 8 to 10 cents November 1. The proposed 12-cent stamp will then cover the cost of the new 10-cent registry fee and the 2-cent postage stamp rate in the United States and for England and Germany.

The appointment the past week of two prominent Yale professors to Government positions under President Taft has caused some of the alumni to sit up and take notice, and incidentally to observe that President Taft is apparently going to remember his Yale friends when the right job is waiting for the right man. Both of the men belong to the department of political economy at Yale, a department that furnished President Hadley and Yale's famous economist, William G. Sumner.

The pioneer aviators are making money while there are still comparatively few of them sure of being able to fly. Curtiss gets \$500 a day. Delagrange, Paulhan and Dementasked two weeks ago \$200 a day for a 30-day engagement, and the man who was seeking their services signed the contract without hesitation. Farman and Bleriot ask \$600 for a week's display, and both can make more money by staying at home and filling orders than by flying. Farman's price for one of his aeroplanes is now \$5,600.

Before the first of next year several new colliers will have been put in service by the navy. The "Vulcan," built by the Maryland Steel Company, Sparrows Point, Md., is now completing her trials before acceptance by the Government. Her sister ship, the "Mars," has already been delivered and another collier on the same plans and constructed by the same company soon will be ready for trial. The collier "Vestal," built at the New York Navy Yard, will be placed in commission about October 1, and her sister ship, the "Prometheus," built at the Mare Island Navy Yard, will be commissioned about January 1.

Muckrakers who seem to be preparing to assail the churches, will find little "material" and less inspiration in the religious census recently completed by the Census Bureau. The report brings its statistics to the close of 1906, the last previous census of the same kind having been made in 1890. During the sixteen years the population of the continental United States increased 33.8 per cent; but in the number of communicants or church members there was an increase of 60.4 per cent; in the number of church edifices, an increase of 35.3 per cent; and in the value of church property an increase of 85.1 per cent. In 1890 the reported church membership represented 32.7 per cent of the total population; in 1906, 39.1 per cent. The proportion of ministers to churches is larger now than in 1890, indicating that churches are more adequately served than they formerly were, and suggests that the ministry is by no means a decadent calling.

### For Electric Theatre.

Miss Wagonan of Jacksonville has arrived in the city and accepted the position as pianist at the Baird Electric Theatre. She is also a singer of some note and will be heard in illustrated songs at the popular play-house.

## ADMIRAL SEMMES' CENTENARY HONORED

**Exercises Were Held at New Orleans, Mobile, Montgomery, Anniston, Savannah and Other Cities.**

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 28.—The 100th anniversary of the birth of Admiral Raphael Semmes, naval hero of the Confederate States, was marked with public ceremonies in the South, in honoring the memory of the commander of the Sumter and Alabama, thousands of members of Confederate organizations joined. In the States in which participation of the commemorative exercises was signaled, Maryland, Alabama and Louisiana took a prominent part. In the first State Admiral Semmes was born. In Alabama, at Mobile, he spent the large portion of his mature life and cast his fortunes with that State, when it seceded from the Union. At that time he was secretary of the lighthouse board at Washington. It was from New Orleans that he fitted up the "Sumter" and took her out to do service for the Confederate States. For a short time, too, he occupied a chair in the Louisiana Military Institute. The centenary exercises at New Orleans were elaborate.

### AT MOBILE.

MOBILE, Sept. 28.—The celebration of the centennial of the birth of Admiral Semmes at his old home here was on an elaborate scale, participated in by the Daughters of the Confederacy, Confederate Veterans, Sons of Veterans and citizens. The monument here to Admiral Semmes and his

grave in the Catholic cemetery were decorated.

### MONTGOMERY.

MONTGOMERY, Sept. 28.—In this, the home of Raphael Semmes II and Raphael Semmes III, the 100th anniversary of the birth of the naval hero of the South was commemorated with marked enthusiasm, exercises being held at 10 a. m. in the local theatre under the auspices of half a dozen Confederate organizations.

### SAVANNAH.

SAVANNAH, Sept. 28.—At a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Admiral Raphael Semmes of the Confederate navy, held by a local camp of the United Confederate Veterans, Lieut. Edwin M. Anderson, who was a midshipman on the famous "Alabama" from the time she was put in commission until she was sunk off Cherbourg, France, by the "Kearsarge," and was Admiral Semmes' aide, told the story of the "Alabama." Lieut. Anderson won his present title for gallantry in the last action of the "Alabama," when he was wounded. His story of the famous battle was interesting in the extreme and he enlivened it with personal reminiscences of the famous Confederate naval captain. The Cruise of the "Alabama" was the subject of Lieut. Anderson's paper.

## Items of Interest From Every Section of Country

Last year's deficit in United States postal accounts is said to have risen to \$20,000,000. Great Britain's profit on its postoffice foots up some \$25,000,000.

The Chicago & Northwestern railway, which carried 27,000,000 passengers last year, joins the Pennsylvania with a record free from fatalities. To this roll of honor the name of any other deserving railroad will cheerfully be added.

Two New York alienists having committed a woman to an insane hospital because she was "nervous, excitable and showed poor judgment," a judge of the supreme court has ordered her discharge, with the remark that "if poor judgment is a sign of insanity there are thousands that might be incarcerated as insane persons." It is refreshing to see a judicial decision based on common sense.

sanity there are thousands that might be incarcerated as insane persons." It is refreshing to see a judicial decision based on common sense.

Army officers are preparing for their annual 90-mile test ride. It was hoped that President Taft would modify the stunt, but he has not done so. So far as probable requirements of service are concerned, the test is unnecessarily severe.

The Southern raisers and distributors of corn and cornmeal are taking active issue with the statements that ascribe the eating of mouldy corn as the cause of pellagra, the disease which wrought such fatal havoc in certain parts of the South. Some of the most outspoken call it "yellow

## Hudson Palisades Saved From Blasting By Sale

NEW YORK, Sept. 28.—Fourteen years of unremitting efforts to save the beautiful palisades of the west bank of the Hudson river from destruction by blasting were crowned with success yesterday when the completion of the purchase of the entire strip of palisades from Fort Lee, N. J., to Piermont, N. Y., was announced. This strip of land and precipitous cliff, fourteen miles long, constitutes one of the most picturesque bits of scenery in the State, and under the plan by which the work of redemption has been accomplished it will become the Palisades Interstate Park. It comprises 700 acres of level land

giving opportunity for a beautiful boulevard drive along the base of the cliff and splendid opportunities for camping and other recreation to the millions of persons huddled in the tenements of New York and nearby cities. One of the achievements remaining to be accomplished is the building of this proposed drive along the river ledge at the base of the cliff, connecting New York by the Fort Lee ferry with the good roads of the west bank of the Hudson.

The cost of this park is about \$627,000, of which \$502,000 was paid by the States of New York and New Jersey and \$125,000 by contribution of J. Pierpont Morgan.

## Cobb, the Dixie Demon, Leads All the Batters

NEW YORK, Sept. 28.—Ty Cobb, the Dixie Demon, now has the highest batting average of any major league player, his credit being .364. The speedy Detroit has a ten-point lead in the records over Eddie Collins of the Athletics, who has played in six less games than his Tiger rival and made twelve less hits. Cobb never has had such a good season with the stick or on the paths.

Hans Wagner, who leads the National League hitters, has not made any such sensational record as Cobb this year. Hammering Hans is wallowing the sphere at a .338 clip, and has made 159 safeties. The runner-up in the Heydler organization is Fred Jacklitsch of the Phillies, who, however, has played in only nineteen games.

There are more 300 stickers in the National League at present than there are in the American League, the sen-

ior organization having eight such batsmen to the younger body's six. These are the men who now are members of the Society of the Three Hundred: Cobb, Collins, Jajole, Slattery, Crawford and Carrigan, in the American League, and Wagner, Jacklitsch, Hyatt, Mitchell, Seymour, Hoblitzel, Bransfield and Bridwell in the National League. The Hilltoppers' leading batsman being Frank Laporte and the Washington Parkers' top-notch sticker John Hummel. Their respective records are .288 and .289.

Three major league players have scored more than 100 runs. These athletes are Tommy Leach, who has journeyed from plate to plate 115 times; Ty Cobb, who has made 106 round trips, and Ownie Bush, who has registered on 104 occasions.

Cobb and Wagner are the pace-set-

(Continued on Page Two.)

## Incoming Vessels Pass Huge Icebergs Off Boston

BOSTON, Sept. 28.—Somewhere not many miles east of Boston the ocean is thickly strewn with wreck creators—icebergs that would quickly send to the bottom the stanchest ship. Incoming liners report the August flow of ice masses almost as great as in early summer, when glacial fragments are looked for as part of the difficulties encountered in crossing the western ocean.

Within a week or two steamships

arriving in Boston have reported ice in the region of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The "Numidian," Cap. Moar, from Glasgow, passed within a mile of a berg that loomed high and was at least a mile long. The "Bohemian," Capt. McCallum, from Liverpool, also passed near a monster ice mass, and the sea in the vicinity was thickly strewn with islets of ice formed by the disintegration of the great glowering wall.